



SHAUN MOTT

THE COST OF WAR *Antigone* parallels classic tragedy and modern politics.

Antigone takes a new stand

Kathleen Weiss gives Sophocles' tragedy a modern political adaptation

theatrepreview

Antigone

Runs 29 November–8 December
Directed by Kathleen Weiss
Starring Ava Jane Markus, Kirsten Rasmussen, Elena Porter, Jenny McKillop, Cole Humeny, and Richard Lee
Timms Centre

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Perhaps you've come across the sentiment recently of how we now live in such a dangerous world, but as far back in time as ancient Greece, writers like Sophocles were exploring war's devastating effects.

Studio Theatre's latest production is Kathleen Weiss adaptation of Sophocles' *Antigone*. The Greek tragedy begins in Thebes as a violent civil war caused by two brothers ends. Both die, but Eteocles is declared a martyr while Polynices is seen as a traitor. Creon, the new leader of Thebes, refuses to bury Polynices and makes it illegal to do so. His sister Antigone, however, is determined to give her brother a proper burial.

"Antigone is certainly your local activist—somebody who's not afraid to protest and spray-paint the brick walls with a message, even if she gets in trouble for it," comments Ava Markus, who plays Antigone's law-abiding sister, Ismene. Just because she's law-abiding, however, doesn't mean that Ismene is full of apathy.

"My character represents somebody

who has the ambition to stand up for herself and state what she wants, but isn't necessarily feeling that she has the support to do it," Markus notes.

While Weiss' adaptation stays true to the original story, various changes have been made to make it more accessible to today's audiences. Different translations of *Antigone* were read, and certain parts from each were pieced together for the new version. Meanwhile, the multi-voiced Chorus was eliminated, with the task of narration placed on the shoulders of one character called The Journalist.

"Antigone is certainly your local activist—somebody who's not afraid to protest and spray-paint the brick walls with a message, even if she gets in trouble for it."

AVA MARKUS
ISMENE

Additionally, Weiss created a parallel between Creon and George Bush by taking parts from Bush's speeches and inserting them into Creon's lines. But Markus thinks that Creon would be more like a corporate CEO in today's society.

"I guess I would compare Creon to somebody who has to deal with all the crap," she explains. "He's stressed

out. He's not always thinking clearly, so he constantly has to rely on his power, and his power is to enforce laws, state how things are going to work, and ensure that people follow his rules."

While it may be easier to place sole blame on the Creons of today for starting wars, *Antigone* goes beyond and critiques the role of individuals in helping war to continue. Markus admits that she herself has become more conscious of a problem that seems so far away from home.

"Working on this play has brought to my awareness how, in today's society, we can continue life while people fight far away, and we have nothing to do with it. We're not exposed to it or hurt by it. I'm hoping that this play can remind people that there is war happening right now, and just because we're not in it doesn't mean we can forget it."

While some audiences may run from a Greek tragedy, a genre that's often mistakenly considered to be as difficult as Shakespearean drama, it appears there's really no reason to cringe.

"This [version] is adapted in a way that it's very easy to understand, and if you're not getting the text, there are images to help the story along. We're having images of death that aren't realistic. They're emotions of death. [The audience] can expect to see heightened interactions between people," Markus says.

"And also—it's funny. *Antigone* is a tragedy, but there are some hilarious moments. There are moments where we give the audience a chance to laugh, breathe, and smile."

Fans, technology, alcohol keeping Art of Dying alive on tour

musicpreview

Art of Dying

With Live on Arrival and Portal
Thursday, 29 November at 8pm
Starlite Room

VANESSA HORNE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Art of Dying may be one of the busiest rock groups currently in the business. They've generated pockets of fans everywhere they go, and have been touring non-stop since the release of their self-titled album in late October. But despite their fast pace, they still manage to keep an intimate relationship with their fans.

At each show, vocalist Jonny Hetherington talks about meeting and chatting with fans, and they use their blog to comment and converse with fans to develop that relationship. For their recent tour with Seether in the UK, Hetherington saw these symbiotic relations reach an all time high.

"Going over to England, our first festival over there was called Download," he explains, "That was a crazy event, headlined by Tool, Metallica, and Guns 'n' Roses—we really didn't know what to expect when we went over there.

"We ended up playing for, like, 5000 people; it was crazy. It was just

unbelievable for us to have [such a] warm response from people that we've never met before. It totally makes every second of it worth it, to meet those people and feel the vibe and get their energy."

That fan-based energy, combined with alcohol and a hunger for their work, is what will keep the band going as they continue along their western Canadian tour, Hetherington says.

"The show's the most important part of the whole thing; I really crave that moment in time when you're playing, and everything just seems like to stop like a car accident.

"Everything seems to slow down; you're lost in a song and the energy from the crowd. And there's this circle of energy going around, and to me, that's the total high of the tour."

Art of Dying is also taking advantage of this technological age to promote their music even further. Currently, they're hosting a contest for fans to make the video for their single, *Completely*, which has yielded some diverse results.

"I have been shocked by a few of them, about how amazingly personal and deep they are," Hetherington notes. "I think we're in a new age when it comes to video: it's really cool to be able to have ten or 15 videos sourced out by people who are fans of the music and to have that all available for people to



watch. I don't know if we've ever lived in a time where that's ever been available before, and it's just really amazing."

Despite their grassroots following, however, when the average Canadian music fan hears about a fresh rock group, their decision on the band often comes down to, "Do they sound like Nickelback?" While

Art of Dying has adopted a harder rock sound since moving from their electronic influence—when the band was known as Sunlikestar—Hetherington doesn't think that automatically deserves comparisons to Nickelback.

"We're both in the rock genre, but I think it's very, very different, and if you dig into the lyrics and the music

of our album, I think you see that right away. Musical expression is how we set ourselves apart, [but] it's cool to hear everyone's interpretations of what you do."

So, is Art of Dying just another band to add to the "Theory of a Nickelfault" genre? Maybe. Ask Hetherington about it an upcoming show—he would love to meet you.



No Country in Oscar country

filmreview

No Country For Old Men

Now Playing

Directed by Joel and Ethan Coen
Starring Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Woody Harrelson, and Kelly MacDonald

MATT HUBERT

Arts & Entertainment Staff

There's something so wry and merily morose about Anton Chigurh (Javier Bardem) that hordes of Coen brothers faithful will be getting that warm, fuzzy feeling of familiarity again in *No Country For Old Men*. Just like *Fargo*, *Miller's Crossing*, and *Blood Simple* before it, *No Country* has those singularly "Coen brothers" moments, when the most brutal and demoralized character is rounded out by an endearing comic punch.

Chigurh (Javier Bardem) receives the same sardonic touch here, stumbling along on his merciless killing spree with both an abysmal haircut and pissy witticisms in tow. Every time Chigurh checks the bottom of

his boots for blood or flips a coin, the film becomes less about tempering the despair with a laugh and more about everything in us that is sick and wrong. The Coen brothers have walked us down this road before, but in this adaptation of the Cormac McCarthy novel, the view has never been so mesmerizing or austere.

No Country For Old Men is a re-hashing of the wrong-place-at-the-wrong-time motif, somewhat displaced from gunslinger times. It's rural, dustbowl Texas in 1980, and Llewelyn Moss (Josh Brolin) stumbles upon a cache of drugs and \$2 million after a drug deal gone wrong; like any good and sane opportunist, he takes the money and high-tails it home.

Moss' acquisition of the cash and drugs quickly becomes known to Chigurh, who's already arbitrarily stalking the Texas plains with an air gun designed for killing cattle. He makes Moss his next target, and the cat and mouse games these two get into is of the classic kind—like Lee Van Cleef and Clint Eastwood, but with uncompromising brutality and contempt. The lawman trying to tie it all together is Sheriff Ed Tom Bell, played by Tommy Lee Jones at his

absolute best.

If *No Country For Old Men* needs to be seen for any other reason than being an adaptation of the work of a Pulitzer-winning author by a screenwriter/director duo in their absolute prime and with a stellar cast, it's for Roger Deakins' incredible cinematography: at times both wistfully spare and eerily confined, every frame is essential to developing the explosive interplay of Moss, Chigurh, and Bell.

Moss and Chigurh's country is one where moral right and wrong is met with a measured indifference; one does what one does simply because he either wishes to or has no other option. It's no country for Bell, who hangs on to his fractured nostalgia for the "sir and ma'am" days, where the moral thrust of right and wrong was still relevant—where one does what one must.

This is the Coens' best film and the best of 2007, with the brothers striking a delicate balance of revelry and misery better than they ever have before. Audiences should be so lucky that a film can look this good and be so entertaining, but they have to decide whether or not they can stomach its uncomfortable truths.

Control tells a troubled tale with grace

Despite bleak subject matter, Corbijn's film paints a vivid picture of Ian Curtis

filmreview

Control

Now Playing

Directed by Anton Corbijn
Starring Sam Riley, Samantha Morton, and Alexandria Maria Lara
Princess Theatre

ELENI LOUTAS

Arts & Entertainment Writer

How many youth have found themselves alone in their bedroom, listening to a record they know by heart, engaging in an internal monologue about the questionable state of existence? Anton Corbijn, director of the *Control* and former Joy Division photographer, knows many of us have, and fittingly, his film begins with the camera circling a still, black and white, solemn Ian Curtis (Sam Riley) sitting alone in his bedroom.

This image of Curtis recurs throughout the film, but that's not the only side of the troubled Joy Division singer we're shown: the point of *Control* seems to be to present the contrasting fragments that made up the complicated whole of Curtis, as opposed to the typical troubled youth whose suicide easily fills in its own blanks for us.

Based on *Touching From a Distance*, a book penned by Deborah Curtis, Ian's

wife, the film introduces us to a 17-year-old Ian Curtis in 1973, trapped and bored in the small town of Macclesfield, England. Curtis escapes his prim family and the dull, grey industrialism of the town through poetry, cigarettes, petty drug use, and the superstar glitter of Lou Reed, David Bowie, and New York City. Meeting Deborah (Samantha Morton) through a mutual friend, he woos her by quoting poetry, and their young love seems to be of the wordless, consuming variety.

The point of *Control* seems to be to present the contrasting fragments that made up the complicated whole of Curtis.

But their marriage signals the beginning of Curtis' struggle between his commitment to an idealized married life and his true personal desires; shortly after the wedding, he begins to shut himself away in their home, writing lyrics and ignoring Deborah while she prepares for the birth of their first daughter.

Curtis meets the future members of Joy Division at a Sex Pistols concert;

they form a band and catch the attention of Factory Records co-founder and television host Tony Wilson and DJ Rob Gratten, quickly securing a record deal—with Wilson signing the contract in his own blood.

While the band's popularity continues to rise, Curtis deals with his trial-by-error medicated epileptic seizures, the creative limitations of his band, the demands of his wife and daughter, and his extramarital affair with Belgian journalist Annik Honoré. Then, one day before Joy Division is supposed to embark on their first American tour, Deborah returns home to find that Ian has committed suicide.

Riley is eerily accurate as Curtis, from his sharp, seizure-like dancing to expressions ranging from crestfallen (upon hearing about the death of epileptic girl's who inspired his song "She's Lost Control") to strangely blank (at the sight of his baby daughter) to heartbreakingly tender and loving (upon first meeting Honoré).

Corbijn's cinematography is spare, gritty, and elegant, allowing the brilliant ensemble of actors to build the honest story and one another. Corbijn is almost loving in his direction and careful to not portray Curtis as a two-dimensional rock & roll casualty, but instead as a troubled, sensitive young man caught physically and creatively, and spiralling beyond his admittedly youthful control.

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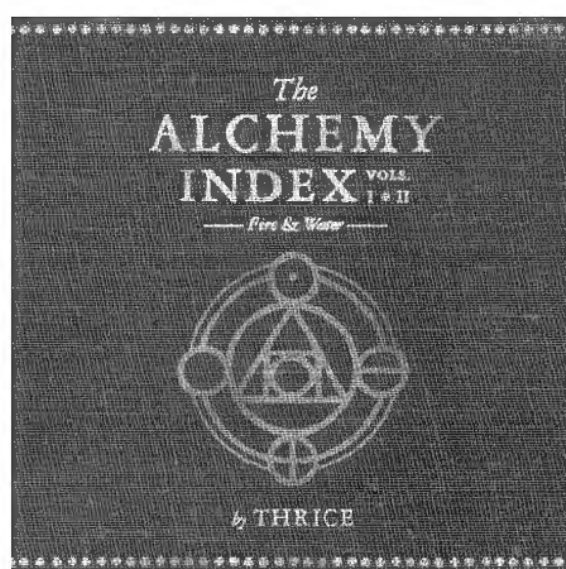
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albumreview

Thrice

The Alchemy Index, Vols I and II: Fire and Water
Vagrant Records

JONN KMECH
Art & Entertainment Staff

Concept albums allow a band to experiment with an expansive sonic range beyond their normal limits, allowing them to push themselves both lyrically and musically. Conversely, they can also result in bloated, self-serving vanity projects that collapse into themselves, not unlike a neutron star of self-righteousness. In each of these cases, the result is at least entertaining, unlike the boring, unoriginal mediocrity of Thrice's latest experimental offering.

Before listening to the excessively titled *The Alchemy Index, Vols I and II: Fire and Water*, I said to myself, "I'll bet that the Fire disc contains aggressively

raging, guitar-driven punk and the Water disc will feature moody, liquid ambience created by synthesizers."

I couldn't have been more misguided, and apologize to Thrice for such unjust preconceived notions—the Water version also contained several electronic samples. But while it's obvious what the band was going for with the overall idea, it isn't immediately clear why all the songs are such throw-aways. After listening to both discs several times, not a single tune stood out. They weren't terrible in any sense—just painfully average.

Another glaring issue with

Alchemy Index is the annoying way it's packaged. Containing just over 20 minutes per CD, it's frustrating to continually switch when there's barely enough music here to fill half of one disc. The liner notes also delve deeper into Thrice's extremely cerebral element concept, displaying cryptic symbols and medieval imagery without the slightest dash of pretension.

While the band's upcoming addition isn't based on the elements grey poupon and sommelier, as one might reason, it is predictably *Earth and Wind*, though it's unclear how these elements can be represented differently. More "earthy" acoustic guitars? Singing wine glasses?

Bands working to continually evolve their sound are commendable and help to prevent a world of Nickelbacks, but doing so shouldn't be at the expense of solid songwriting. While attempting to do something unique, Thrice unfortunately forgot about the songs, leading to a decent but memorable addition to their catalogue.



LAURENSTIEGLITZ

DANGER HAIR Chimaira tore through the Dinwoodie Lounge on Saturday, bringing their '50s style do-whop harmonies. Naw, they just played hard metal.



albumreview

KT Tunstall

Drastic Fantastic
Virgin Records

KELSEY TANASIUK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Drastic Fantastic, the new album from KT Tunstall, only lives up to half its name; while it's certainly a fantastic collection of music, there's nothing drastic about this album.

Everyone's favourite Scotswoman returns to this side of the pond with a new album, which sounds pretty much

like her old one, *Eyes to the Telescope*, only with a bigger budget. *Drastic Fantastic* has a very full sound when compared to its sparse, instrument-light predecessor.

Perhaps the most unexpected thing about Tunstall's new album is its artwork. The CD booklet displays no lyrics;

instead, each page says the name of a song on the album, and then tells the story of the song through a few beautifully rendered comic-book panels. Of course, the interpretation of the panels are up to the viewer; as their meaning isn't necessarily clear. While such strange liner-notes don't really seem like Tunstall's style, it's apparent that she might be an odder songbird than she first appeared.

Overall, *Drastic Fantastic* is catchy, bouncy, and pleasantly addictive. Tunstall's lovely vocals and equally pleasant lyrics are never a disappointment. It's not a great departure though, so for a super fan or a new listener, *Drastic Fantastic* is a great album to pick up, but casual fans who already have her first album might want to skip it for something a little different.

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Hockey Bears win big over hard-hitting T-Birds

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

The Bears hockey team threw big hits and got big payback this weekend against UBC, as Alberta was able to neutralize the Thunderbirds' usually aggressive style and put up two wins against the team that swept them in their opening weekend.

The Bears (11-2-1) beat UBC (7-7-0) on Friday night in a close 3-2 game, while Saturday's matchup was an even more decisive 6-2 victory for Alberta.

"It's definitely a bit of revenge after the start of the year, when we lost two games to them," said Bears defenceman Jason Fransoo, who had a goal and an assist on Friday night and two assists the following evening. "I think that's sort of the attitude we went into the weekend with. We wanted a bit of revenge, and we got it."

Alberta got off to a slow start on Friday, and were down by one after only 1:20 minutes of play. It wasn't until the 7:35 mark in the second period that Fransoo evened out the score. Though the Thunderbirds scored again minutes later, two Alberta goals—one each from Harlan Anderson and Dale Mahovsky—before the end of the period decided the outcome of the game.

Known as an aggressive team, UBC forced Alberta to play a more physical game than they're used to, but Thunderbirds coach Milan Dragicevic acknowledged that his team wasn't up to its usual standard.

"We have an identity of being a gritty hockey team," he said. "I thought tonight we weren't as physical, nearly at all, as we've been in the past. To be honest with you, I was pretty disappointed in how [unphysical] we were tonight."

The Bears were coming off a bye weekend, but Thurston said that rather



STU TREBELCO

MOVE IT OR LOSE IT The Thunderbirds may have pushed the Bears around on the ice this weekend, but the home team had better offence and earned two wins.

than giving them extra energy against UBC, the extra week's rest slowed his team down.

"The bye might have taken a little bit of our skating legs and our finely-tuned skill level that you get when you keep going," he said. "You can do all the one-on-one battles [and] all the game simulations that you want, but it doesn't compare to the real thing."

A few periods were all the Bears needed to get back on their stride,

however, and by Saturday night, they were once again on the top of their game and ready to show UBC why they were ranked second in the country going into the weekend. Alberta got goals from Richard Hamula and Anderson before UBC was able to reciprocate late in the second period, and shots were 26-12 in favour of the home team after two.

The Bears' offence really took off in the third period, putting in four more goals.

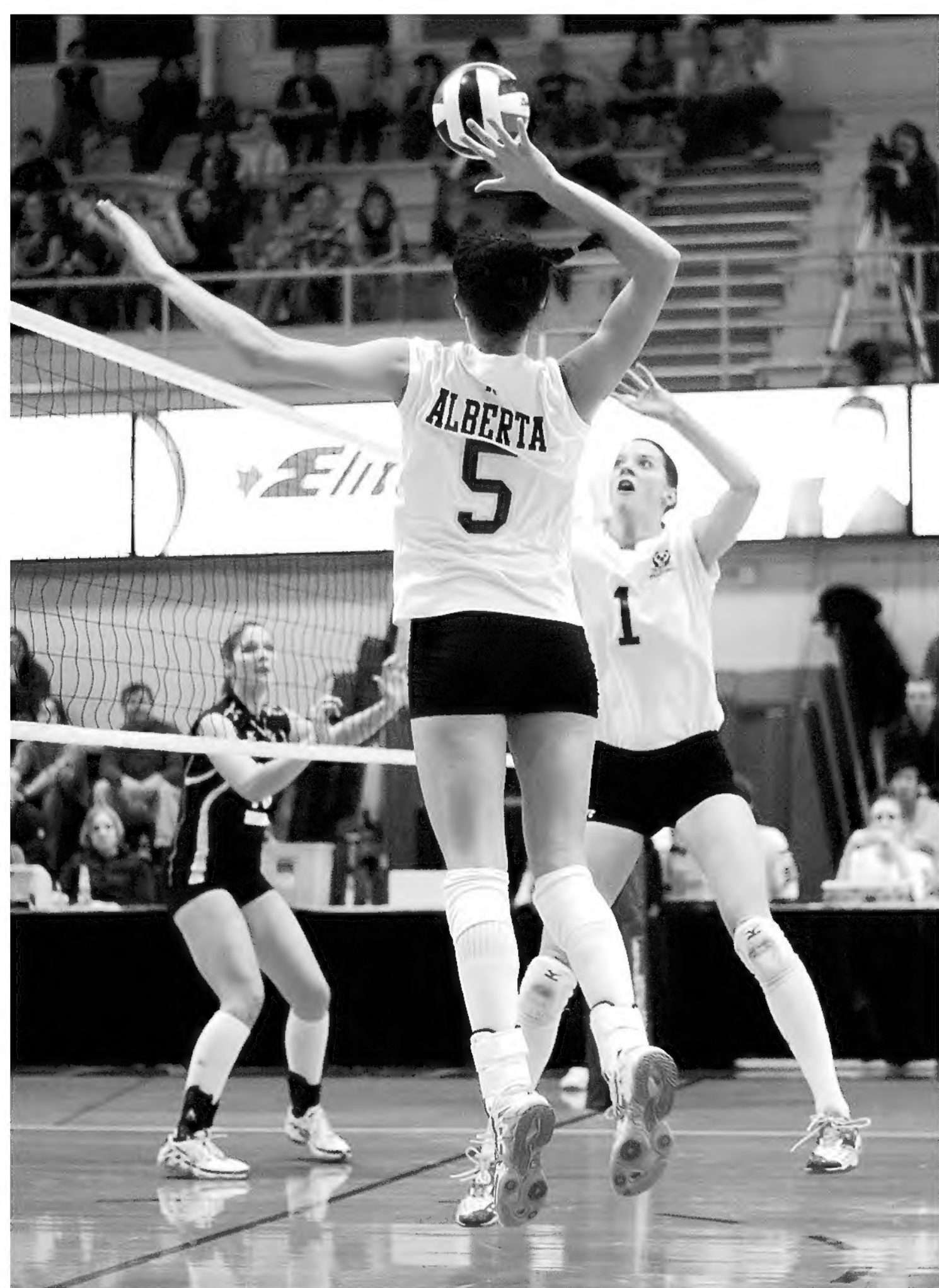
"Tonight, we just came out and stuck to our game plan and didn't really give them much," Anderson said.

Anderson's dominating play had a lot to do with the Bears' success. In addition to scoring both nights, the defenceman—and team captain—chipped in with two assists on Saturday and one on Friday.

"He was tremendous; he was all over the puck," Thurston said. "That's the leadership that we need, and that's the leader that he is. When your

captain brings it on the ice like that, it makes a coach proud because he's really stepping up to the table and taking the game by the horns."

"I love playing with him; that's all I can say," added Fransoo, who pairs with Anderson on the backend. "You get him the puck, and he puts it in the back of the net. That's really my goal: to get the puck to him, and he's going to make plays, [and] with his lethal one-timer, most of those pucks are going to go in."



REID MCKAY

THE GUN SHOW Alberta's Samantha Wojtkiw (5) smacks one to the Huskies.

Alberta gets the broom out for Dogs

Volleyball Pandas bring the aces to sweep two games against Saskatchewan

MARC AFFELD
Sports Writer

The Pandas volleyball team (7-1) spent this past weekend showing the Saskatchewan Huskies (3-7) exactly why they're currently one of the best-ranked teams in Canada.

Friday night got off to an exciting start as the Pandas narrowly escaped defeat in the first set. The rescue came thanks to two consecutive aces by second-year outside hitter Tiffany Proudfoot, with Alberta winning 25-23. Alberta didn't take any more chances, however, and went on to sweep Friday night in three sets, winning the next two 25-13 and 25-20 respectively.

Samantha Wojtkiw led Alberta's offence on Friday night, managing 14 kills and no errors on 16 attempts.

"It's funny because you don't know when those performances are coming," Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler said. "There was a really good connection between [Wojtkiw] and the setter, Daryll [Roper]."

Roper managed to put up three blocks and made 38 assists on Friday night against the Huskies.

Saturday night was another showcase of the Pandas' offensive ability. Third-year middle Alexa Berton racked up eleven kills, and the Pandas also got nine from Jocelyn Blair and seven from Kaylan Berg. Again, the Pandas won in straight sets: 25-11, 25-14, and 25-16.

"It was excellent that we were able to get everyone off the bench in, and I was just really happy with the execution."

JOCELYN BLAIR
PANDAS OUTSIDE HITTER

According to Blair, the Pandas' success this past weekend was especially welcome after the team's surprising and much-talked-about split with Trinity Western two weeks ago.

"I think this weekend was good to regain our confidence. It was excellent that we were able to get everyone off the bench in, and I was just really

happy with the execution," she said.

Saskatchewan head coach Leslie Irie felt that, despite the discrepancy on the board, her team showed plenty of potential off the bench. She cited performances from third-year Rebecca Kolbenson, fourth-year Amber Smith, and rookie Sarah Nelubowich.

Nonetheless, the Huskies seemed to have spent the weekend struggling to maintain consistency.

"I think that in each set there were phases where the two teams played close to the same level," Eisler said. "But in volleyball, even more so than in other sports, you have to be able to sustain it to be able to win."

"We were too inconsistent," Irie said. "We needed to find a way to develop rhythm on our side, and they just didn't allow us to."

The Saskatchewan players also felt that the numbers didn't do justice to their performance.

"I think we came prepared to play, but it just didn't show," Saskatchewan power hitter Shannon Usher said. "If you look at the scores, it doesn't feel like we should have been down by that much. It just wasn't our weekend, I guess."

Easy wins leave volleyball Bears wanting more

Alberta swept Saskatchewan twice at home this weekend, but the ambitious team knows that parts of their game still need work

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

Though they won both their games handily this weekend, the Bears volleyball team feels that there's room for improvement in their game. Alberta (7-1) took down the Saskatchewan Huskies (1-9) in straight sets both evenings, but Saturday's win didn't go as cleanly as the team would have liked.

"I thought the first night, we played really well and kept our intensity up really well and played together as a team; it was fun playing the first night," said Alberta right side Joel Schmuland, who made seven kills on Friday with a .778 attack percentage, and eleven kills on Saturday.

"The second night, we let a few things slip. We worked through it, but it wasn't as smooth as the first night."

Alberta head coach Terry Danyluk agreed. He was very pleased with his team's display on the first night, but felt the quality of play on the Alberta side of the net was lower.

"We had mixed performances, I thought," he said. "We won both nights, but I think we played very well on Friday, and even after the weekend off, we were quite efficient on Friday. Whereas, on Saturday, parts of our game were a little bit off."

Over the bye weekend the Bears just enjoyed, they paid particular attention to improving their defensive game. The extra practice was evident in their play this weekend.

"Our front line on the defensive block was good, our back court defence was good at times—but still needs to

be improved some—and then we just need to make sure we're consistent all around the board," Danyluk said.

"I think we definitely did a better job defensively this weekend. We dug up a lot more balls and touched a lot more balls," Schmuland added. "We were better in that way."

It was on the offensive side that Alberta struggled slightly, on Saturday especially. They made 17 attacking errors and twelve service errors that night, and Danyluk blamed these offensive lapses, rather than pressure from the other side of the net, for the Bears' struggles.

"We have pretty good attackers in all our of our positions, but, unusually, on Saturday both our left side guys, their numbers weren't very good," he said. "We have to rely on them being better than they were."

"I thought that Saskatchewan played a little better—they played with a little more energy and fight—on the second night, but a lot of the errors that we made weren't necessarily forced errors. Hitting the ball out, to me, isn't a forced error."

The Huskies, in last place in Canada West, were outmatched on the court even when playing their best.

"They're obviously a good team," Saskatchewan head coach Brian Gavlas said of the Bears. "It makes it difficult to play against them when even when we're playing well, they'll continue to do things that make you look bad."

Though hardly ecstatic about Saskatchewan's performance, Gavlas was able to glean some positive things from the weekend.



STUTREBELCO

THE BEAR-LIN WALL Justin Merta (left) and Brock Pehar try to block a Saskatchewan spike during Saturday's sweep.

"I think that [...] the second night, we played at a better level. We forced them to earn more of their points, which was pretty important," he said on Saturday. "We have to take some solace from that because we are a

young, developing team.

"Hopefully every time we step on the floor, we'll continue to get just that little bit better."

That's Danyluk's hope for his team as well, and he sees the weekend as a

learning experience for his team.

"I think we've made some good progress," he said. "We're 7-1, which anyone would say is a good record, but we have a tough second half to come, so we have to keep getting better."

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SCOTT
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Sports
Commentary

Expanding a sports league is always a subject that should be approached delicately; if you're not careful, you're going to end up like the NHL, which started showing some serious stretch marks around the time that Nashville got a team. However, the CFL is showing every indication that it's time to make a modest expansion, and pushing to a nine- or ten-team league is the right call.

For all the courting of Toronto and southern Ontario (this year's Grey Cup being a prime example), the truth is that the area has a lukewarm interest in CFL football at best. Toss in the prospect of an NFL team taking root in The Big Smoke, and Canadian football doesn't seem to have a bright future in the City of Smog. In the rest of the provinces, however, the sport has hit its stride. Television revenues are up, as are ticket sales, and the Grey Cup is consistently one of the most-watched sportscast of the year. Given this, it might be time for the CFL to stop planting their seeds in barren soil and look out for these fresh fields.

The first city that the League has set its sights on is Halifax, and the idea is a sound one. Seeing as professional football in Canada currently

doesn't get any further east than Montreal, there's a huge untapped market in the Maritime provinces and Newfoundland. The area has a population of over 2 million people and, if the team was marketed as a regional product instead of tied to a specific city, it would have no trouble building a fan base and filling a modest stadium for home games. In 2005, an exhibition game between the Argos and the Ti-Cats quickly sold out the 11 000-seat stadium at Halifax's St Mary's University, showing that there was more than enough demand for pro football in the area.

Seeing as professional football in Canada currently doesn't get any further east than Montreal, there's a huge untapped market in the Maritime provinces and Newfoundland.

As well, much like Saskatchewan, the number of ex-pats from Atlantic Canada would all but ensure that away games draw in a significant number of fans.

The biggest sticking point for a Halifax CFL team has been that they have nowhere to plant their cleats. The city doesn't have a venue large

enough to pull in the kinds of crowds needed for a successful football team, and the city's recent unsuccessful bid for the Commonwealth Games means that there's no current plan to build one. However, with a bit of aggressive marketing, surely enough corporate sponsors exist in the area to finance such a project: Halifax itself is home to companies such as NewCap Broadcasting and CanJet, while Sobey's and McCain Foods both have their headquarters in the Atlantic region. The money to build the stadium is there, and both the league and residents have shown excitement in the idea of a Halifax team.

Some argue, too, that the costs of travel for away games would choke the life out of an East Coast team. But really, flying out to Montreal and Toronto from Halifax is really no different than the BC Lions having to fork out airfare whenever they play the Stampeders or the Eskimos.

Once we've got Halifax in the fold, the CFL will finally be a true national league, with die-hard fans from coast to coast. Monitoring how a new Atlantic team does would also give the league an indication of where to look to next. While haphazard expansion will result in pitiful teams and half-empty stadiums, there are still cities in Canada that could easily support a new team. Quebec City has a solid football tradition and could provide the Alouettes with a real rival come Labour Day weekend. Plus it would give the city something to talk about besides the Nordiques.

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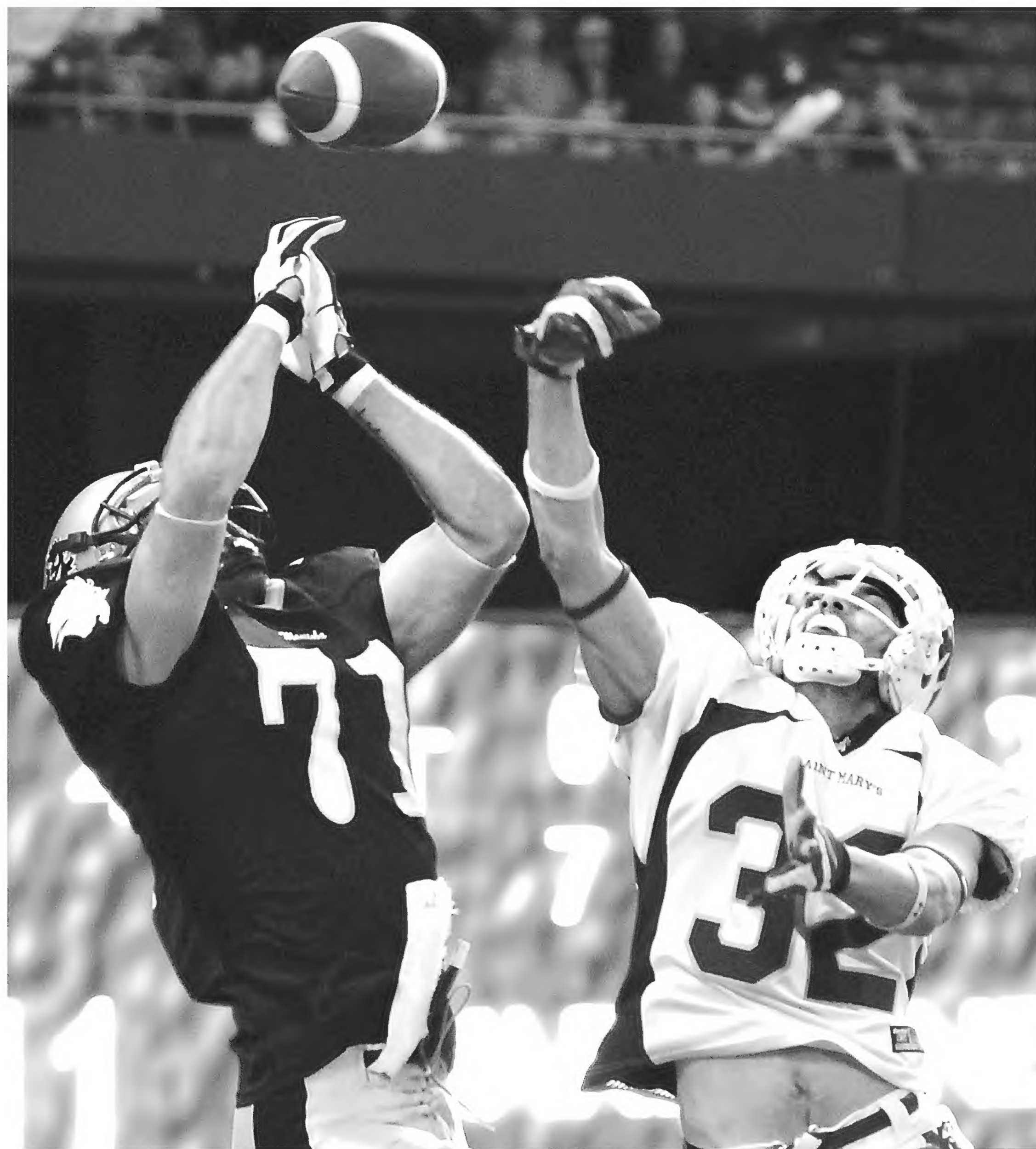
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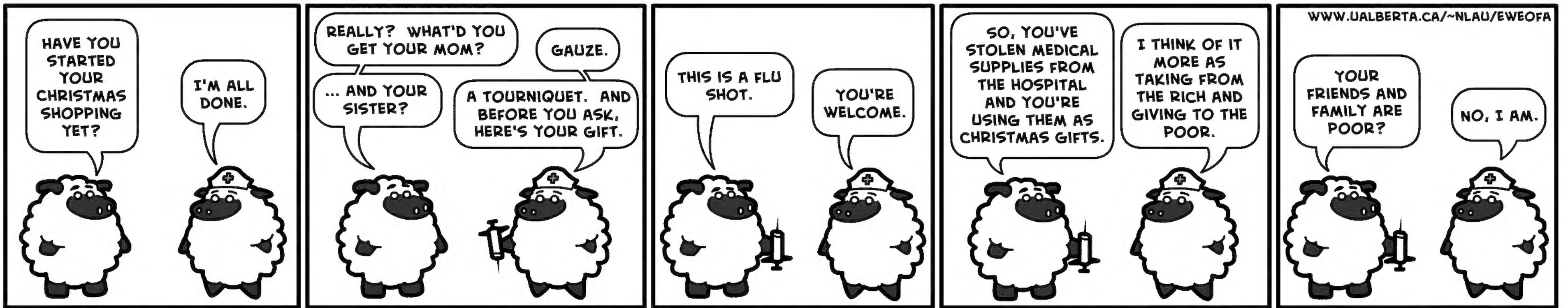
TOM BARNETT, EXCALIBUR (CUP)

NOW THAT'S A TIP-OFF The Grey Cup wasn't the only important football game played in Toronto this weekend. On Saturday, Saint Mary's and Manitoba played the Vanier Cup, the CIS football championship. Manitoba (12-0) won 28-14.

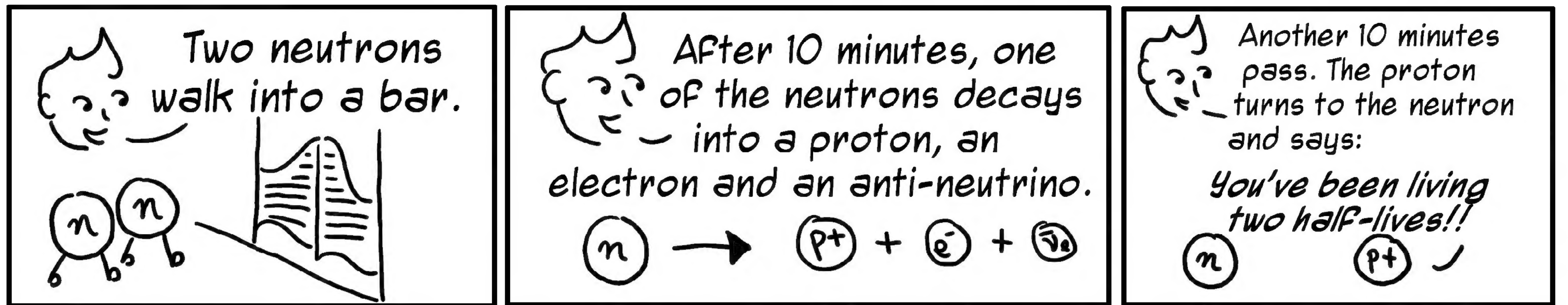


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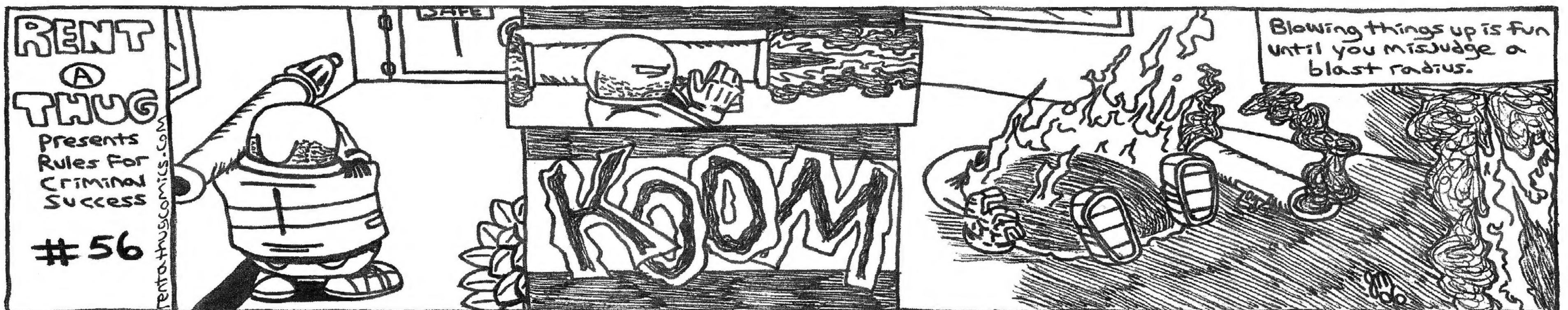
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Red Deer College offers Spanish 101 in Guadalajara 23 May-22 June, 2008 rdc.ab.ca/continuingeducation

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EMPLOYMENT - TEMPORARY

APIRG is seeking a Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for the 2008 board elections. Dates of employment are 6 Dec, 2007 to 1 Apr, 2008. \$1000 honorarium will be provided. Must be a U of A undergrad who has not opted out of the APIRG fee. Complete job description at www.apirg.org. Submit letter of interest and resume to apirg@ualberta.ca by 5pm, Fri 30 Nov.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Volunteers needed to teach English as a second language to adult newcomers. Classroom setting. 2-3hrs/week, downtown. No exp. necessary. Ongoing training provided. Great opportunity to meet people from around the world. Contact Anne-Marie at CCI-LEX, 944-0792. lexprogram@cci-lex.ca

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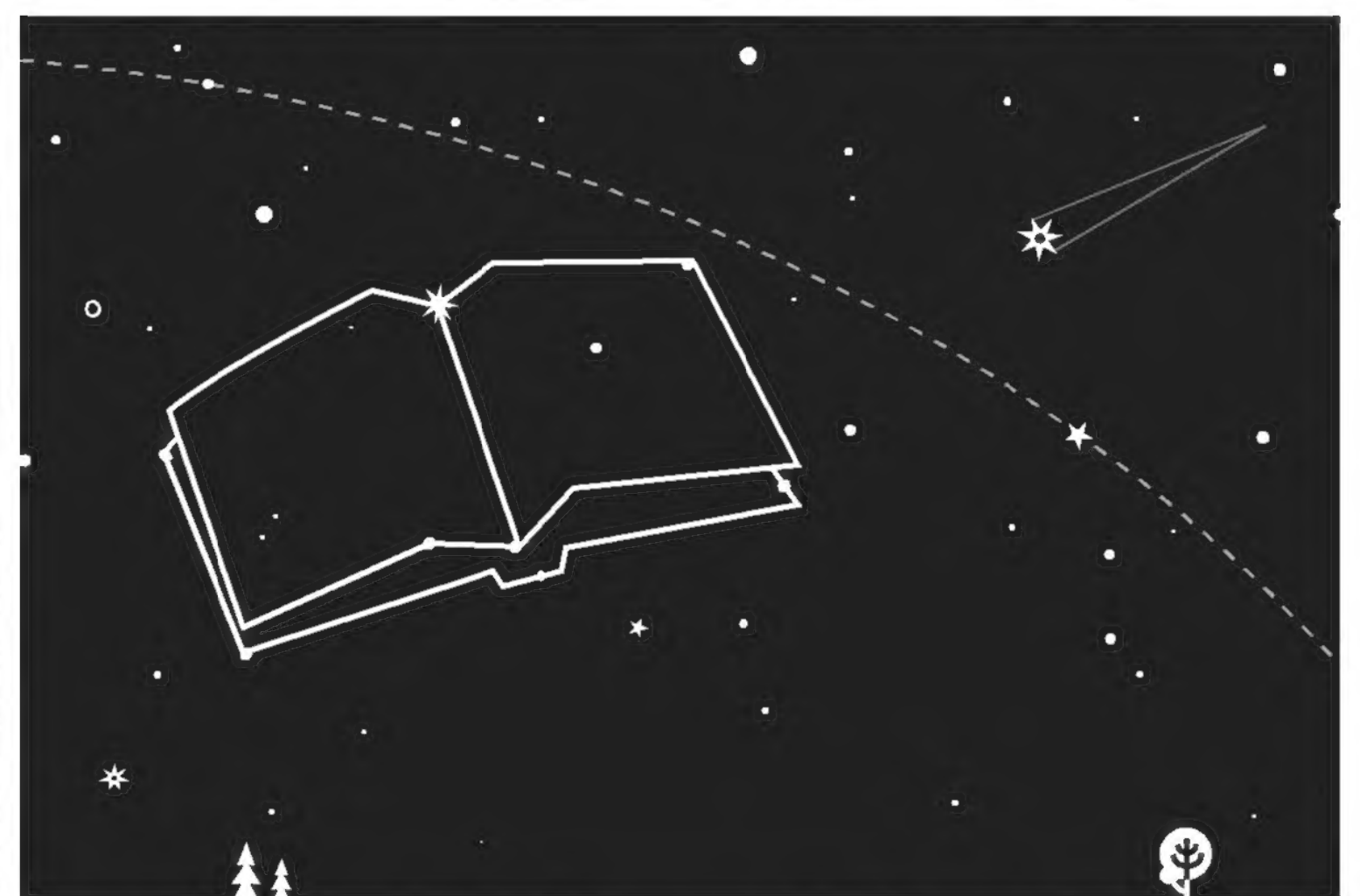
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THE GATEWAY

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Capital Health takes a shot at mumps prevention



KIRSTEN GORUK
News Staff

The Mumps Immunization Campaign, which began yesterday and runs until 29 November, has health officials strongly encouraging students to roll up their sleeves.

The campus-wide campaign is in response to outbreaks in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick earlier this year, as well as more recent cases in Lethbridge at the end of October, and is open to all students and staff—specifically those born after 1970.

“The group that Capital Health is most interested in is the university population right now because they fit the primary criteria for mumps,” Kevin Friese, assistant director of the University Health Centre, explained.

In order to be immune to mumps, two doses of the shot are required. Most students would have received their first vaccination in early childhood, which means that a second dose is still needed.

As Dr Mark Joffe, an infectious diseases consultant in Capital Health and associate professor of medicine at the U of A, stressed, the threat of mumps is something that should worry students.

“Any outbreak is a source of concern. It’s important to understand that this is in the context of a very large outbreak of mumps,” he said.

TARASTIEGLITZ

MEASLES AND MUMPS AND RUBELLA, OH MY! Free vaccinations against these three common diseases are being made available to all U of A students and staff.

PLEASE SEE **MUMPS** ♦ PAGE 2

U of A students pulling in awards

The Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation gives out \$124 000 in 2007

JENNIFER HUYGEN
News Staff

Recognition can come in many shapes and forms, but for 37 University of Alberta students, commendation for their leadership and community involvement has come in the form of a cheque.

At the beginning of the academic year, the students were awarded with the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation’s national in-course excellence awards. The awards, which are dispersed annually, are available in three levels of funding, ranging from \$4000 to \$10 000.

According to Fiona Halbert, an undergraduate coordinator in the U of A Student Awards Office, the Millennium in-course scholarships are a prestigious nod to students balancing school with extra-curricular activities.

“It’s not an easy award [to get], and any time you get into a scholarship that has leadership and GPA [requirements] to it, for any student that’s a big workload,” Halbert explained.

The in-course scholarships are

designed to recognize full-time post-secondary students who exhibit qualities of leadership, innovation, and community-building, while maintaining at least a B+ average.

“We’re looking for students who are leaders; they’re involved in their communities; they’re involved in their schools,” said Melissa Moi, an awards officer with the Foundation.

Nina Brnada, a third-year education student with a major in English and a minor in ESL, is a first-level recipient who credits the award with promoting volunteerism.

“It enables me to further volunteer because it’s really hard to pay for school if you don’t have a job,” Brnada said. “By getting this award, I’ve been able to decrease my hours at work and, in turn, increase my volunteering time.”

Brnada, a Yugoslav refugee who moved to Edmonton when she was seven years old, gives back to her community by holding seniors-friendly ESL classes once a week for new immigrants, and was the co-founder of a library and social-space project in her church.

Moi explained that the in-course

awards are unique in that they honour students who haven’t previously been recognized for their involvement.

“One of the interesting things about the in-course awards is [that] they were created in 2003 when we realized that there wasn’t an award out there to recognize students who had really, really become involved and really sort of taken flight when they entered postsecondary,” she said.

The Foundation works in partnership with postsecondary institutions across the country to administer the scholarship competition each year. The U of A Student Awards Office acts as a middleman by nominating students for the scholarship.

“We work on a nominations basis, so we’re working in partnership with [the U of A’s] awards office, and for each 800 eligible students at your institution, you’re given one nomination,” Moi said.

The Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation is an independent, private organization that was created by an act of Parliament in 1998. To date, it has awarded over \$2.4 billion in the form of over 800 000 bursaries and



MONICA LEON-QUINTERO

WHAT MAKES A WINNER Fiona Halbert explains how students get nominated.

scholarships.

Future funding for the organization is in question after its parliamentary mandate expires in 2009. Brnada is strongly against any funding cuts, and wants to see a continuation in the level of support to both individuals and communities.

“In having this Foundation, they’re not only helping single individuals to whom the money is awarded, but they’re helping the greater community,” she said. “There are a lot of people at the U of A who actually want to dedicate their time to making the community better.”

Inside

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Students’ homes

It may be tough to find a place to live on campus now, but as this history of residences shows, that’s nothing new.

FEATURE, PAGES 8–9



Brothers’ bones

In Studio Theatre’s *Antigone*, the titular character is on a quest to give her brother a proper burial.

A&E PREVIEW, PAGE 10

THE GATEWAY

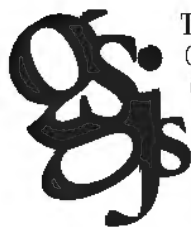
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The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, Joanna, Kepler and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's games of choice are Trauma Centre: New Blood and Geometry Wars Galaxies.

contributors

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Health officials strongly urge students to get vaccinated

MUMPS ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We have been anticipating that this would reach Alberta, which it now appears to have done,” Joffe said.

Joffe went on to explain that postsecondary institutions such as the U of A are prime breeding grounds for infectious diseases.

“Congregating large numbers of susceptible college-age students in crowded classrooms [and] bars where they are in close contact, sharing drinks, cigarettes [...] creates the perfect storm for spread of an infectious disease such as mumps,” he said.

The life of a university student would be greatly interrupted by mumps. Not only would an infected student have to deal with uncomfortable symptoms like vomiting and swollen glands—including a 40-percent risk of testicular inflammation for men—they would face nine days in isolation.

There is also the risk of complications associated with the disease, including meningitis, deafness, and sterility. With this in mind, the U of A is hoping to get the message out to all students about the issue.

But organizing a campaign of this scale is never easy, and communication is the biggest obstacle to overcome.

“Everyone’s busy,” Frieze said. “We’re going into exam season, and people are really focused on their classes. They’re being bombarded with information: posters everywhere, email messages, and the news.”

The feeling on campus is that students are aware of the issue, but that awareness isn’t always enough.

Krystina Silva, third-year Arts student, says she’s slightly concerned about the timing of this outbreak with exam season just around the corner, but isn’t concerned enough to get the shot.

“We have been anticipating that this would reach Alberta, which it now appears to have done.”

DR MARK JOFFE
U OF A ASSOCIATE MEDICINE PROF

“I just don’t get immunized in general—not for a flu shot, not for anything really. If I do get mumps, then I guess I’ll cross that bridge when I get to it,” Silva explained.

Other students are taking more notice and have seriously considered the vaccination.

“I’m thinking about it,” said Vanessa Policicchio, a third-year Education student. “I probably will, but I’ll talk to my mom first—she’s a nurse.”

But for those without a nurse in the family, Joffe hopes that students will take advantage of the campaign. He wants to make sure that everyone understands that there’s nothing cute about the “chipmunk” appearance of mumps.

“[It] may seem humourous, [but it’s] very uncomfortable for a number of days and is associated with fever and feeling pretty miserable.”



TARASTIEGLITZ

GETTING THE WORD OUT Kevin Frieze, associate director of the U of A's Health Centre, hopes all students and staff will get the mumps vaccine.

Clinics will be held in the following locations on campus:

26-27 and 29 November (9:30am-4:30pm):

- ♦ Myer Horowitz Theatre, Students' Union Building (Site 1)
- ♦ 4th Floor Education Lounge, 4th Floor Education North (Site 2)

28 November (4pm-9pm):

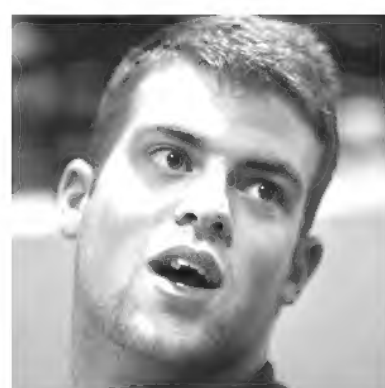
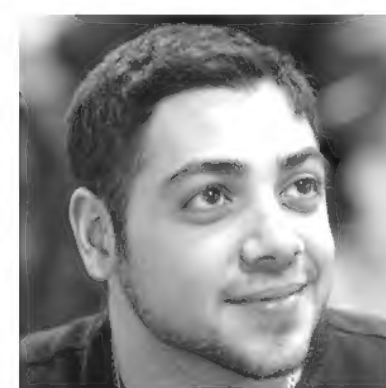
- ♦ Lister Hall Gymnasium (Site 3)

Capital Health asks that all eligible individuals bring their student ID, Personal Health Number, and immunization record, if available.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Steve Smith and Liz Durden*As you may be aware, there have been mumps outbreaks across Canada, and Capital Health is offering free vaccinations to members of the U of A community.*

Are you planning on being vaccinated?

**Marc Leblanc**
Arts I**Alex Moreau**
Science II**Lucas Giralbi**
Engineering I**Khalid Elleden**
Engineering II

“Definitely. We’re all going on Wednesday [gestures at table-mates].” [Table-mate: “I’m not!”] “Well, okay, me and [one other guy] are.”

“I’ve already been vaccinated because I’m in the military, and she shot me up with everything they have a vaccine for.”

“Yeah, I probably will. Depending if I remember that day.” [It started today]. “As long as I remember tomorrow, then.”

“No.” [Mumps can make you sterile, so here’s a followup question: what activity will you most miss engaging in with the son you’ll never have?]. Probably teaching him to be a player.”

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Med student invents game for teaching world affairs to teens

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

Listening to David Poon talk about his creation, a game called *Economic Flags*, is a little like listening to children talk about their hopes for Christmas morning: there's a little trepidation, but it's completely overshadowed by excitement.

Poon, a medical student at the University of Alberta, thinks he's found a way to get high-school students interested in global affairs and engaged with the goings-on of global politics and economics by presenting real-world situations that are part economics, part co-operation, and part adversarial tactics.

Poon explained that the game was born from a larger project.

"I started a chapter of a group here, Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), and their goal is to create social change through business education. So my goal was to do something in high schools, and *Economic Flags* came out of that."

But Poon's real interest in developing *Economic Flags*—essentially a card game—stemmed from his own lack of knowledge on international affairs and the fact that the opportunity to learn about them never arose during his own high-school years.

"Admittedly, I have an interest in multiculturalism, and I'm interested in economics," he explains. "These are two aspects that were not taught to me in high school. I didn't know very much about the world; I still don't know why my Canadian dollar is worth more on eBay now, and that's a big deal."

Economic Flags manages to teach students something very complex in a relatively simple way. A minimum of eight students are broken into eight teams, each representing one of Venezuela, India, China, Japan, the UK, Germany, the US, and Canada. Each team is then given three sets of cards that set out the kind of resources they have, their goals for importing, and cultural aims. The cultural goals are things that affect your economy aside from money. For instance, Poon explains that a



RYAN HEISE

ARE YOU GAME? Poon hopes *Flags* will become part of social studies classes.

cultural goal for team Venezuela is to avoid trading with the US. This is due to the strained real-world relationship between the two countries.

The game consists of three rounds, each representing one year, but only taking roughly ten minutes to play.

In the first round, teams attempt to buy and sell resources at the best possible rates. During the second round, wildcard events are thrown at each team—things such as global warming, stock market crashes, civil war, or even a visit from Bono—that affect how much money they have to work with during the round. The final round has each team investing in other countries in hopes of capitalizing on one another's successes.

Though the game only takes about a half hour to play, teams experience a microcosm of global affairs by the end. Poon says that so far, the reaction has been overwhelming.

"My favourite story is when team China, back in Saskatoon, physically surrounded team Canada to intimidate them into a sale," he grins. "Although, I don't think the image will ever leave my head [of] team

America telling team China that Japanese cars are garbage in order to make their sale. And then they physically jumped on a table to try to push a sale. So I'd say the response has been very positive."

It may seem strange for a med student to invest so much time and energy into such a product, but Poon says that a strong knowledge of economics is important even to those in the medical trade.

"Medicine and economics actually cross quite a bit. For example, did you know that 40 per cent of our provincial budget goes to health care? That's a large chunk. If doctors continue to ignore that connection, it will be very poorly managed money."

While the game is still in its early stages and currently undergoing the patent process, Poon hopes to keep it a part of his life for a while and to help an increasing number of students learn about international affairs in the meantime.

"The goal, still, is high-school students and eventually getting it integrated into a high-school curriculum," he says.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero

LAUNDRY MONEY LAUNDERED

At about 4pm on 5 November, an office on the second floor of the General Services Building was broken into. There were signs of forced entry, and a jar of coins was stolen. There are no suspects.

FATHER KNOWS BEST

On 6 November, a vehicle was stopped for several Traffic Safety Act offences, including running a red light. The driver of the vehicle stopped in the area of 115 Street; however, as the officer approached the vehicle, it sped away at a high speed. EPS was advised of the last direction of travel, and CSS contacted the owner of the vehicle by phone. A short time later, the owner of the vehicle attended CSS with his son, who was operating the vehicle at the time of the offence, to "straighten things out." The 17-year-old was issued violation notices for several offences under the Traffic Safety Act.

PARK YOUR ASS SOMEWHERE ELSE

During the early hours of 8 November, there was a report of a male sleeping inside the parking booth in the parkade of the Timms Centre. Officers attended the area and located a male inside the parking booth. He had gained access by climbing through a window. The male had no University affiliation, and was escorted from the building.

A FEW BUTTONS SHORT OF A REMOTE

Around noon on 8 November, staff in the Administration Building reported hearing someone punching buttons on an exterior door on the third-floor stairwell. They opened the door and spoke with an unknown male, who couldn't explain why he was punching buttons on the door. The male was described as being in his 30s, 5'5", with long greasy hair, a black baseball cap, and a rough complexion. The male was last seen walking into SUB, but was not located by CSS.

TWO MINUTES FOR STEALING

At 1pm on 10 November, there was a report of several thefts from the Clare Drake arena change room number six. Person(s) unknown entered the change room while the team was playing hockey.


Property and wallets valued at over \$3000 were stolen. A male was seen in the area at the time that the thefts occurred, and was described as a white male in his 30s, wearing a three-quarter-length jacket and talking on a cell phone. Several wallets were later recovered in nearby garbage cans. CSS is still investigating.

A BAD CASE OF THE MUNCHIES

On 11 November at noon, unknown individuals damaged a concession machine on the first-floor student lounge in St Joseph's College. The bottom-right corner of the glass had been smashed, and it appeared that several snacks had been stolen.

ACCESS DENIED

On 12 November at about noon, there were reports of a suspicious male in the Cameron Library basement study hall trying different computers and asking people for their CCID and passwords. Officers attended to the area and located the male in the basement. The 47-year-old male smelled of liquor and also had open liquor with him. He had no University affiliation, and was charged with trespassing and escorted from campus.



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Gwynne Dyer gives straight talk on environmental issues

Canadian journalist focuses his speech at the Myer Horowitz theatre last Wednesday on how best to combat global climate change

VICTOR VARGAS
News Staff

Journalist and author Gwynne Dyer spoke on campus last Wednesday about the politics of climate change. Dyer, a syndicated columnist on international affairs, argued for controversial solutions such as nuclear power to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"It's going to split the environmental movement right down the middle. Nobody wants to hear about it. They hate it. I think the fear is exaggerated because we tend to tangle up nuclear power with nuclear weapons in our mind," he said.

He argued that nuclear power is one of the only options to reduce carbon emissions, stating that other technologies are simply not mature enough to be put into widespread use. While he acknowledged that there are problems with nuclear power, such as the waste, he believes nations like France show that nuclear power can work.

"France generates 80 per cent of its

power through nuclear power. And although I don't see French people naked in large number on a regular basis, I'm pretty sure they don't glow in the dark. It's not the desirable choice, but it's probably going to be the necessary choice," Dyer said.

As for renewable alternatives such as wind or solar power, Dyer believes that they are the way of the future and the preferred option. However, he also asserts that they're still too problematic to be put into widespread use.

"There is a less-discussed problem with the renewals," he said. "With the exception of tidal power—because the tides go up and down all the time—all the renewals are a fluctuating power source, because sometimes the wind does not blow and sometimes the sun does not shine."

But, Leila Darwish, associate director of the Sierra Club of Canada, disagreed with Dyer's assertions, and believes that nuclear power isn't an option.

"It is not a climate-change solution,"

she explained in a later interview. "It is a very long-term environmental problem. Even the [International Atomic Energy Agency], which is and an industry group, has stated that nuclear energy cannot be deployed quick enough to combat climate change."

Instead, Darwish said the real solution to combat climate change is to implement clean energy solutions and, most importantly, to lower consumption.

"It's economically feasible for people to consume less. And I think when Gwynne Dyer would rather put an expensive, dangerous, risky thing like nuclear energy than to ask people to cut it back, I think that shows a total inaccuracy of thinking," she said.

However, during his speech, Dyer said that while lowering consumption would be the more painless solution, it's politically unfeasible.

"Practically speaking, we are going to have to do things that are politically going to work. And taking all the toys away from the kids isn't going to work."



MIKE OTTO

BURNING UP Dyer suggests nuclear power is the best energy alternative.

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Next time it could be you!

Canada



Armoured bears don't threaten faith

NOTHING GETS ME INTO THE SWING OF THE holiday season like some eggnog, a warm fire, the smell of pine, and some good-old fashioned religious controversy. And now, with the observed birthday of Jesus right around the corner, the freight train of power and clout that is Christianity is motoring along, looking for any sign of heathens to mow down.

This year's target of choice is the book-turned-film *The Golden Compass*. Originally written in 1995 by Philip Pullman as the first in a trilogy of fantasy novels aimed at pre-teens, older, more astute readers found very complex challenges of some of the major tenants of Christianity in the book, including creationism, heaven and hell, and sin.

While the book has been around for over a decade, its adaptation to the theatrical realm, along with Pullman's brash admission that he's an atheist and that *The Golden Compass* is about destroying God, has brought the work under intense attack from Christian groups. The primary concern is that the book and film will spur children to question Christian beliefs—or, even worse, shun their religious upbringings altogether.

But this is nothing new. In 2006, it was the film adaptation of *The Da Vinci Code*—though the book had already received a lot of flack as well. For the last decade, the *Harry Potter* series has been trumpeted as being anti-Christian. But even long before these big-name works were released, the religious right has had a relationship based around conflict with the media. From the liberalization of television to the rise of rock & roll, if something doesn't jive with the book of Job, some God-fearing individual is bound to raise his or her voice.

But what's really unsettling is that you rarely hear a voice of dissent from the other side. As an atheist myself, I don't think that the existence of any piece of religious work or teachings diminishes my ability to have a different belief system. I don't want to be preached to or told that I'm wrong, but if you want to read the Bible, be my guest—it doesn't affect me one way or the other.

Yet some religious fundamentalists choose to be scared of anything that challenges or goes against their belief system. Why do they feel compelled to try to dictate what *everyone* can read, view, or listen to, and not just worry about themselves?

Maybe there's more to it than just a desire not to have their belief system cast in a negative light. Recent studies in Europe and the United States show how religious affiliation is plummeting, specifically among 16–29-year-olds. One study by the Barna Group showed that this category of people is becoming more skeptical towards Christianity, and feel that its beliefs and viewpoints are out of date—specifically, that they're best categorized as anti-homosexual.

This backlash against content that is perceived as anti-Christian could be a last-ditch attempt to hold on to and develop a new religious base among young people, but all it really serves to do is exacerbate the viewpoint that many people involved in these organizations are very self-interested, even at the cost of dictating—and alienating—the rest of society.

It's high time that people practicing religion—whichever it may be—fully embrace that fact that it should be a private endeavour. They should stop crying wolf whenever they think there's a threat aimed at their belief system and realize that society is full of differing viewpoints, many of which are in constant conflict. Because if—preferred deity forbid—you're legitimately being discriminated against, people are just going to think you're shouting about that children's book you don't like.

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

Nobody likes Jill

Oh noes, mumps outbreak!
Unless you want swollen balls,
Get yourself the shot.

CONAL PIERSE
Opinion Editor



CONAL PIERSE

LETTERS

Booze does more harm than hangovers

(Re: "The drink-makers' guide to the galaxy of inebriation," 21 November) I generally don't read the *Gateway*, as I find its compilations of poor and misguided information to be an insult to a university institution. However, I did happen to pick it up this Thursday and noticed some rather offensive material.

I first want to say to all the drinkers out there that your liver sure as heck doesn't consider drinking to be a "work-out", and such an attitude, in a perfect world, would cause your liver to get up and walk out on you. Secondly, the idea that a shot of vodka can be considered a serving of vegetables is a joke. In case anyone is confused by this, here is why it's not: the only part of the potato that potato vodka (that's right, not all vodkas are made from potatoes, and the ones that are generally have a hefty price tag associated with them) uses is the sugar, not the important stuff that makes potatoes.

What you would know as maltose is used to make vodka. Maltose is a sugar; therefore, a shot of vodka is nothing more than a shot of sugary poison. That's right, ethanol is a poison and is, truth be told, bad for your health. Sarah's argument is nothing more than childish defence of a poor behaviour.

Moving on, Lauren unfortunately seems to have a poor grasp on biochemistry. Her point that "recent

studies have [...] shown that red wine reduces HDL (ie bad) cholesterol" has many problems, which hopefully at least a few people have noticed already. Firstly HDL is actually your good cholesterol, and you really do not want to lower that. LDL, however, is bad cholesterol, and has been shown to be reduced by red (optimally French) wines.

However, this doesn't mean that if you get wasted on red wine it will help your health in any form. The correlation between red wines being beneficial towards bad cholesterol levels completely breaks down when consumption increases over one glass a day for women or two glasses a day for men.

Alcohol isn't good for you, and getting wasted is even worse. In our population, it sickens me to see such poor attitudes being taken towards such a dangerous drug. Maybe we all think it's fun to go out every Friday and get trashed; however, many of us don't realize that statistics suggest that one in three of you that are getting your kicks from such abuse will end up with a serious addiction.

Alcohol is no laughing matter. It is responsible for copious amounts of family and spousal abuse as well as criminal deviance such as violence and destruction of property. Alcohol abuse is a huge problem in our society, and destroys many peoples lives.

So next time, before we decide to advertise for drugs of abuse, can we please take a moment to give respect and grievance to those that have suffered so vastly at the hands of alcohol. I, personally,

am disgusted by the manner in which the *Gateway* so blatantly promotes such a risky and detrimental behavior.

LACEY GERBRANDT
Science IV

Screw your opinion; whales need protection

(Re: "Save the planet, screw the whales," 21 November) I understand what you're trying to do Miss Climenhaga; opinion articles are an excellent medium for causing discourse and attracting attention to emotionally deprived individuals such as yourself.

The one thing that surprises me is that a Senior News Editor would thrust her apathetic opinions into the public arena without any argument other than misinformed personal belief.

Your points, [which] consisted of [stating that] whales "aren't human" (well observed, madame,) and [that] "whales aren't even cute," were very effective.

Your use of humanity as a term is blatantly contradictory of your unfounded stance. You contend that whale hunting isn't barbaric. It escapes me how you don't view suffocating any creature in a net or repeatedly stabbing a beast countless times as barbaric. Utilizing our humanity should afford us the ability to oppose such actions of a dwindling species.

By your own admission, the humpback whales are no longer endangered, but protected. How do you think species become endangered?

By allowing excessive and unnecessary killing of their population.

I never expect anyone to hold the same beliefs as I [do] on the topic of human rights, but your justification of slaughter [of one species] with that of another (lab rats) left me personally disgusted. To apply your apathy to all us foolish people with morals and causes is astounding. There are things worth fighting for Natalie, and I hope that one day you can find something you care about more than yourself.


We're living in a deteriorating world, and you're part of the problem. I may have spent my childhood and teen years unaware and contributing to our global decline, but I will do my best to make a difference. Me and my pointless morals and beliefs. Enjoy your dessert Miss Climenhaga; I'm sure it will be alone.

BEN SIR
Arts

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. We also don't accept envelopes full of bees. I'm allergic. The *Gateway* also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication.



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Wooing cougars is good business

CONAL
PIERSE



When I turned 18, my older brother told me two things: that I should avoid older women who were on the prowl at bars, and that my moves are about as funky and fresh as a yeast infection, so I'd do well to avoid the dance floor. Though I disagree with the latter statement—I rock the canoe like Lewis and Clark—I've done my best to avoid the sexual advances of hungry cougars over the years.

It's not that I'm some kind of ageist—I'm simply not capable of being the surrogate father figure to a boy who's only a few months younger than myself. And though I know that most young Edmontonian males are of a similar system of beliefs, recent news has caused me to alter my position on these venerable vixens.

Apparently, Kenya has become a tourism hot spot for single older women, many of whom travel there with the intention of finding a younger lover for a marathon of sexual escapades. The women buy their companions gifts and cover the expenses for their time spent together, and in exchange are given

"No longer would a Taste of Edmonton be a week-long affair in the Summer, but rather, a sexy marketing slogan. A simple swapping of letters would yield a world-renowned 'Sheet Performers' Festival,' and it would no longer be the size of our mall that we'd be advertising."

a personal tour of a Kenyan.

The Kenyan tourism board is, of course, against this and is attempting to discourage the practice. You can't really blame them either, as it seems like this is but a step above actual prostitution on the surface. However, when you take into account the fact that these are all tactics employed by wealthy men worldwide, it's really just a great way to get yourself a new pair of shoes. And now that Kenya's tourism industry has dropped the ball, it's time for us to recover the fumble and score some sexual touchdowns.

As it stands, Edmonton doesn't have much going for it tourism-wise—and if you don't live here, one visit is certainly more than enough. Say what you will about our so-called "festivals": if I visited a city only to discover that the main attraction was to have my mind blown by the size of a mall chock-full of assorted teenage hoodlums and questionably dressed skanks, I would strangle my travel agent just as soon as I finished beating a random kiosk worker to death for driving a remote control car into my ankle.

If, however, we were to throw away our prejudices and make hip-shattering love to a plethora of travelling older women, not only could we breathe new life into our city's tourism industry, but we could also get that laser-tag playset that we always wanted.

No longer would a Taste of Edmonton be a week-long affair in the summer, but rather, a sexy marketing slogan. A simple swapping of letters would yield a world-renowned "Sheet Performers' Festival," and it would no longer be the size of our mall that we'd be advertising.

At first, you might think that this is degrading. That we'd be lowering ourselves, much like someone who continues to wear a *Winnipeg Jets* jersey to every hockey game he attends. But how much is your self-respect really worth to you? I've thought long and hard about this, and the answer is a Nintendo Wii. It doesn't even have to be new—I'm not picky. You might say that this makes me a man-whore or that I'm morally bankrupt, but if you slap a bow on a cherry-red Vespa, I'll let you call me whatever you want.

China doesn't like big butts, cannot lie

The highly restrictive criteria women are required to meet to work at the Olympic Games do nothing but reinforce our skewed vision of what's beautiful

MARIA
KOTOVYCH



Last week, organizers of the 2008 Beijing Olympics released the criteria by which they'll select hostesses and volunteers to assist with ceremonies such as presenting medals and flag-raising—and old, short, voluptuous women need not apply.

The organizing committee only wants hostesses who are between 18–25 years of age, 1.68–1.78m in height, and who don't have tattoos, earrings, or big bums. Those in charge of selecting hostesses stated the reason for this criterion is that "big bottoms could stick out too much."

Now I'm not an expert at using butt size as a criterion for anything, but I take offense to such lame reasoning. Stating that large backsides could "stick out too much" is more of a description than an explanation for why this characteristic might be a problem. Furthermore, the phrase "big bottoms" is terribly boring, and understates the true hindrance that such a condition would pose to a medal ceremony, as audiences will surely be looking at the hostesses—not the athletes receiving the medals.

Before writing their report, the authors should have listened to the Sir Mix-a-lot classic "Baby Got Back" to bone up on their ass-description skills. Suggesting that a hostess

shouldn't have "a motor in the back of her Honda" would have made the selection committee sound more hip, at least in my books. Personally, I don't see the problem, but, unfortunately, "when a girl walks with an itty-bitty waist and a round thing in [their] face," Chinese officials are considerably less than impressed.

Suggesting that a hostess shouldn't have "a motor in the back of her Honda" would have made the selection committee sound more hip, at least in my books.

And though the Beijing Olympics will require only 560 hostesses—which shouldn't be difficult to find, considering China's population—a 10cm height range is far too nitpicky and ridiculous.

When I see a hostess assisting with the flag-raising ceremony, I'm not going to turn off the television because the lady is only 1.65m tall. And considering the average Chinese woman stands at 1.58m, this height range is hardly representative of the population. Furthermore, this narrow height requirement rules out many women who might want to participate, who could do a wonderful job, and who have a fantastic ass.

Only hiring hostesses who are between 18–25 shows a bias towards youthful appearances that exists not

only in the minds of the Olympic planners, but among many North Americans as well. Here in North America, many middle-aged people attempt to make themselves look younger rather than aging gracefully. And while that's certainly an individual decision, some people take it to extremes. Treatments such as botox promise to eliminate facial wrinkles, creating a younger appearance. And for what? To conform to our society's unrealistic obsession with youth?

Standards of beauty (and people who obsessively pander to those unrealistic standards) never cease to puzzle me. When I was shopping for dressy shoes last year, the salesgirl pointed out a pair that would show the "right amount of toe cleavage." I'm sorry—"Toe cleavage?" I guess I missed the memo that announced toe cleavage as this season's hottest body part. Am I supposed to worry about that in addition to all the other body parts that society tells me must look a certain way? Social standards already dictate that my hair can't be too frizzy, that my eyebrows shouldn't be too bushy, that my breasts must not droop, and that my bottom can't stick out too much. Now I'm also supposed to worry about showing the right amount of toe cleavage? I have better things to do with my time.

But I guess I shouldn't complain too much. As long as the 2008 Olympics' hostess-hiring committee continues to write laughable memos, and as long as North American society keeps on perpetuating stupid standards of beauty, then I'll never be at a loss for good entertainment. Satire, after all, never goes out of style.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAVID RIDLEY

WINTER'S HERE Cold weather means hard times for the poor, but getting them off the streets will take more than money

There's more to the poverty problem than dollars and cents



GRAHAM LETTNER

“Trying to understand poverty purely in economic terms would be like trying to understand food only by its nutritional value. All the tastes, textures, colours, smells, dinner parties, and ice-cream binges would be lost, and you’d be left with nothing but caloric content and recommended daily intake.”

The developed world is stuck on the idea that poverty is an economic problem. This demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of poverty, and is the reason why the aid efforts of the developed world thus far have so often been ineffective.

Poverty certainly encompasses economics, but that’s not where it ends. Poverty also involves social attitudes, international power relations, cultural history, physical geography, and personal interactions. Poverty is messy and hard to quantify, and conceptualizing it in a strict economic sense is severely limiting.

When you encounter poverty, it’s rarely on economic terms—usually, it’s much more visceral. Here in Edmonton, poverty commonly looks aboriginal, feels like stinging January cold, and sounds empty and lonely. It elicits a gut reaction of unease and helplessness, neither of which is expressed well in the language of economics.

Poverty is far more complex than what economics alone can describe. Trying to understand poverty purely in economic terms would be like trying to understand food only by its

nutritional value. All the tastes, textures, colours, smells, dinner parties, and ice-cream binges would be lost, and you’d be left with nothing but caloric content and recommended daily intake.

We need as many different ways as possible of thinking about poverty. This could be achieved through stories, physical geography and human history, or the use of song or the visual arts—we can’t rely exclusively on economists to give us a complete understanding of such a complex issue.

International aid would be more effective with a better and broader understanding of poverty. It would enable the developed world to work more effectively in the messy and chaotic field of human development. Business plans are often too rigid and concerned exclusively with monetary aspects to allow for any real change or development to take place in human terms. People are often disorganized, indecisive, and unpredictable. Aid efforts would do better if they could grasp these realities, rather than assuming them away as part of an abstract economic model.

Operating in purely economic terms restricts human capability and creativity. These are essential elements in fostering lasting social change. Constrained to acting only in such a prescribed manner, people likely won’t have the means to create meaningful change to situations of poverty.

This is not idealistic woolgathering, but rather the only way to create lasting positive change with an issue as challenging as poverty. The American civil rights movement was an incredible example of creating this kind of change. With no detailed business case or formal organization, but only limited month-to-month planning, sparse and unpredictable funding, and decentralized leadership, this movement overturned entrenched economic, political, and social injustices.

Operating solely in the realm of economics isolates the developed from the developing world. Armchair macroeconomics keeps the developed world safe from being emotionally vulnerable to the reality of poverty and personally responsible for the well-being of the poor. A new understanding of poverty in more humane terms could bridge this gap.

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a history in residence

While the housing shortage continues to be a problem in Edmonton and the University scrambles to try to meet the needs of its ever-growing population, it's not the first time this issue has arisen. Since the University's earliest days, finding housing for students, profs, and even the premier has been a tricky endeavour. Here's a look back at how student housing has evolved since the first University opened its doors in 1908.

by Victor Vargas

Photos by Monica Leon-Quintero,
Lauren Stieglitz, and Stu Trebelco

solid foundations

1910: Rutherford House is constructed

This notable campus home is built for Alexander Rutherford, then the premier of Alberta. Later, it will be handed to the Delta Upsilon fraternity. Today, it remains as a historical site.

1910: Ten "Ring Houses" are built

With a dearth of both housing and public transportation in the Strathcona area, ten houses are constructed on the south bank of the river, forming an eponymous ring. These would serve as housing for the first professors.

1911: Athabasca Hall opens

The first building on campus opens with the completion of Athabasca Hall. The hall serves as an all-purpose building, with living quarters, the library, classrooms, and the President's office all jammed in together. Assiniboia Hall opens the next year, and everything but the residents are moved over from Athabasca. Pembina opens in 1914. When it becomes the exclusive home to female students; in 1919, Athabasca becomes a male-only residence.

1929: Fraternities and sororities approved on campus

The decision is finally made to allow secret societies on campus, overturning a previous ban.

The first groups given the privilege of being allowed on campus are three women's groups and two men's: Phi Gamma, Alpha Upsilon, Sigma Iota, the Atheneans, and the Rocky Mountain Goats.

Other groups would exist on campus as student groups that acted like fraternities, but wouldn't be given the designation until later. Today, the Greek system provides an extensive housing network for both male and female students.



growth formula



1962: Lister Hall Opens

Lister Hall is built with the Kelsey and Henday towers. Henday is designated the male-only tower, while Kelsey is strictly reserved for females. The third tower (MacKenzie) opens six years later, in 1968. Until the early 1980s, tenants of Lister are only allowed to intermingle with the opposite sex in the main cafeteria.

1961: Expansion into Garneau begins

Faced with the need to expand campus, the University begins obtaining parts of the Garneau community and demolishing old buildings to make way for new ones. The residents of Garneau are less than fond of this plan, and begin a campaign to try to stop University expansion.

Using a combination of protests, historical designation, and political lobbying, the residents of Garneau slow University development and ultimately bring it to a halt.

1967: Michener Park opens

Created to provide one section with 299 two-bedroom apartments and another section with 300 two- and three-bedroom apartments, the residence provides family and communal housing to students for decades to come. The park was named after the late Rt Hon Roland Michener, Governor-General from 1967–1974.

1968: SU gives birth to HUB

The Students' Union announces extravagant plans for its own Students' Housing Union Building, or HUB. The proposed structure is envisioned with the ability to house approximately 1000 students in three different units designed to provide varying degrees of privacy and cost. One such option calls for 400 300-square-foot bachelor suites that would each include a bedroom, a kitchen, and a bathroom for only \$90 per month. It's also speculated that these one-man apartments could theoretically hold two people, provided they're willing to live in cramped conditions.

To add to the complexity of the project, the Students' Union plans for the building to be connected to both Rutherford Libraries, the Arts building, Fine Arts, Law, Physics, Chemical Engineering, Cameron, and even Biological Sciences—allowing students living in HUB never to go outside ever again.

To ensure that this project will be fiscally sound, the Students' Union decides to add a few business ventures into the mix. They offer areas for services like groceries, dry cleaning, and recreational activities, and build a walkway for specialty shops, food outlets, and lounge areas. Another business venture is a large parkade to be constructed right beside the mall to provide tenants with parking space for only \$8 per month.

When it opens in 1972, HUB is the pride of the SU. For a time, it is the only residence in Canada controlled by students and also one of the longest mall boardwalks in the world—but the fiscal headaches would plague the SU for years.



a hub of activity



1970-1971: Assiniboia and Athabasca close as residences

No longer housing students, the aging landmark buildings, along with Pembina, narrowly avoid destruction and are instead renovated and restored.

1973: HUB loan repayment problems

The Students' Union, faced with another deficit budget, wants to defer a payment of almost \$1 million in loans taken out on HUB. But permission to defer payment of loans must come from the board of governors and the Students' Council, and is further complicated by the terms of the \$5.5 million mortgage with Royal Trust Co, which can't be changed for at least three years.

Other alternatives examined are the elimination of the municipal tax on HUB (as HUB was a non-profit venture being taxed), rent increases, summer occupancy, and campaigns to attract more commercial business.

HUB is operating at a deficit of \$228 000, making it the primary culprit of the \$136 000 deficit in the SU's budget. The SU executive, believing HUB is on the cusp of a break-even point, hopes a deferral will give them the breathing room required.

While the loan deferment doesn't happen, the SU manages to attract more business to the project, giving it the financial help it needs.

1972: Garneau development ends

Faced with opposition from the Garneau community as well as financial issues, construction and expansion into Garneau comes to a halt. Sporadic conflict continues over the designation of historical sites for years to come.

1973: Board of Governors shuts Pembina Hall down

The Board of Governors officially decides to close Pembina Hall on 7 December, and on the same day informs the residents that they will have until 30 April, 1974 to evacuate the premises so that renovations can take place. In the meantime, the board plans to study alternative uses for the building, which is being used exclusively by senior and undergraduate female students.

Pembina is seen as having outlived its usefulness as a residence due to the restrictions placed on it. For example, due to archaic electrical wiring, tenants are forbidden to cook in the building and to use appliances in their room. Additionally, the only lightbulbs people could use were one 60- and one 30-watt, providing for dimly lit studying sessions.

Eventually the University repeals their decision, and Pembina Hall remains as is.

1975: HUB crisis averted?

A deal is reached to prevent HUB from further dragging down the finances of the Students' Union. The plan involves the Department of Education giving the Board of Governors \$300 000, with \$100 000 going to the next year's operating deficit and \$200 000 to help the Student's Union pay the loan incurred to build and maintain HUB. The Department of Education further recommends that a \$700 000 loan from the Board to the SU be forgiven.

1976: HUB sold to the University for one dollar

As it turns out, the previous year's financial plan isn't enough to keep HUB. Having exhausted all efforts to keep control of the building, the Students' Union sells HUB to the University for \$1, effectively absolving themselves of this hefty financial burden.



a different tomorrow



1984: Lister students protest conditions

The Lister Hall Students' Association sets up a booth to protest the alleged heavy-handed tactics of Housing and Food Services. Pamphlets are made outlining grievances that included general complaints of overcrowded bathrooms and raids on individual rooms, as well as very specific points such as allegations of Housing and Food officials charging \$50 to paint a door.

1991: Michener Park Opened to Non-Students

By the end of November, as many as 43 units are empty in Michener Park. To deal with the large number of vacancies, non-students are permitted to live in the neighbourhood. The move shoots fears through Michener Park residents that this would inevitably lead to the University selling the park.

These fears seem all but confirmed when David Bruch, then the director of Housing and Food Services, goes on record by saying that if Michener Park doesn't maintain financial self-sufficiency, University support may fade and the Park may be sold.

2000: Newton Place Holds its Own

Ending a month of debates and negotiations, the residents of Newton Place vote to accept the University's offer of rent reduction, given after tenants become upset over construction in the building. The new arrangement consists of 50-per-cent rent rebates for September–November and 30 per cent for December on the floors with the most disruption. As well, Newton Place residents become immune to rent increases due to a clause in their settlement.

2003: Schäffer Hall Opens

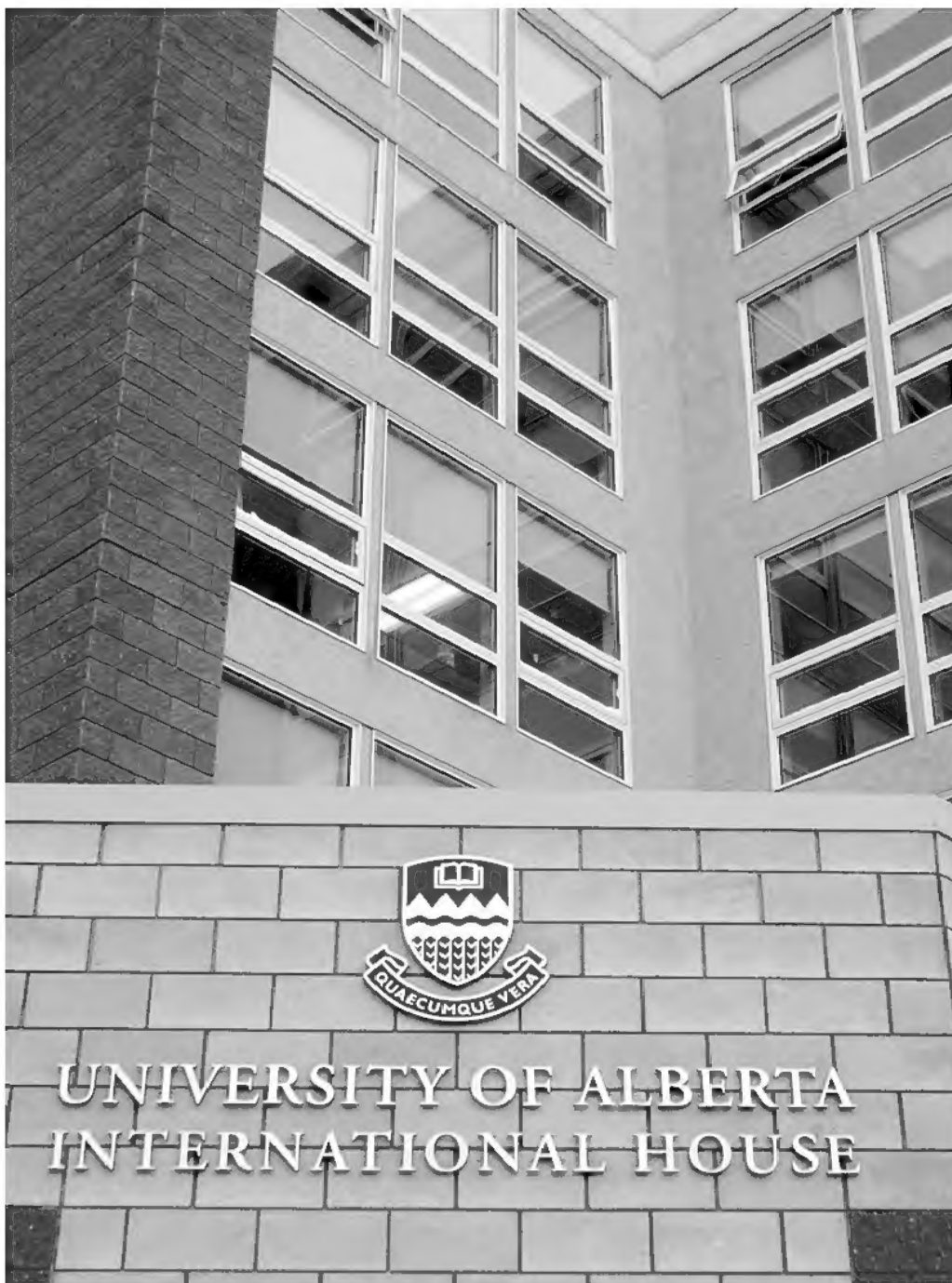
The last major extension to the Lister Centre is added. It also becomes the only Lister tower to house students in their third and fourth years.

2004: International House Opens

The University opens this residence in East Campus Village to give students from around the globe a place to stay and mingle with each other.

2005: Pembina's fate is sealed

Being used as a graduate students' residence, Pembina Hall is repurposed by the University to be converted into office space, evicting the residents despite their pleas to the contrary.



*When it opens in 1972,
HUB is the
pride of the SU.
For a time, it is the only
residence in Canada
controlled by students
and also one of the longest
mall boardwalks
in the world—
but the fiscal
headaches would plague
the SU for years.*

Plans are in the works for about 1000 new beds around campus, both at East Campus Village and South Campus. Among the plans are a proposed graduate students' residence, and a proposed aboriginal students' residence that would operate similar to I-House by including those of non-aboriginal descent.

For more information on the history of residence, check out the Gateway's online archives at www.thegatewayonline.ca